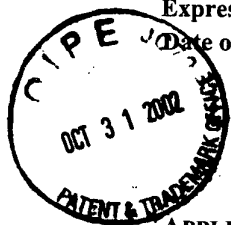


#3/a



Express Mail Label No.: EV054302358US

Date of Deposit: October 31, 2002

Attorney Docket No. 21402-222 (Cura-522)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Shimkets *et al.*
SERIAL NUMBER: 10/028,248 EXAMINER: Not yet assigned
FILING DATE: December 19, 2001 ART UNIT: 1643
FOR: NOVEL NUCLEIC ACIDS AND POLYPEPTIDES AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as set forth below and consider the following remarks:

In the Specification:

On page 165, replace the sentence on lines 10-14 with the following:

Nucleic acid molecules encoding fragments, homologs, derivatives and analogs of an NOVX protein of SEQ ID NOS: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, and 38, or antisense nucleic acids complementary to an NOVX nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, and 37, are additionally provided.

A marked-up version showing changes made to the specification is submitted herewith as Appendix A, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1)(iii).

Please insert the sequence listing, pages 1-289, at the end of the specification.